



Sodbury Town Council

Minutes of the Meeting of Full Council 14th January 2020 at 19:30 hrs, Sodbury Town Council Offices

Present: Councillors J Ball (Chair), L Banister, G Dyer, S Gibson, C Hays, D Jeal, M Gilpin, M Lewis, P Rumney, S Spooner, P Smith, A Williams

Cate Davidson – Town Clerk
Jackie Murley – Assistant Clerk

Members of the Public: x 1

Gazette representative
Chamber of Commerce representative
Parish Plan representative

A Public Participation

A Parish Plan representative addressed Members with regard to the temporary closure in December 2019 of the Post Office in Chipping Sodbury and advocated that '*collectively*' the town should be more proactive in trying to save it and, in particular, the matter should be highlighted in local press. She continued that it affected footfall in the town and was an essential service for the elderly. The Clerk responded that the town council had written to the Post Office and a response had been received that they were '*continuing to work hard to restore a service in the area and had some interest locally but unable to provide further information but would update once further news available*'. In addition, an approach had been made to The Spar, as it was rumoured the Post Office would move to The Spar's new premises, although the owner of The Spar (Franchisee) did not wish to engage in communication with the town council. Mention was made of a "*mobile/portable*" PO in Charfield and whether this could be brought to Chipping Sodbury? The Chairman concluded that the town council would keep on top of the matter and report further as and when information received.

A St John's Way resident addressed Members and expressed her disagreement with the recent South Glos Council consultation that related to the implementation of a traffic calming scheme at the Trinity Lane site with speed bumps. Speed bumps increased pollution and noise levels, were not on the original plans and considered inappropriate at this particular site. The Clerk confirmed the matter would be discussed further at Agenda item 135.

124 Apologies and Chairman's Report

Received and accepted from Cllrs B Allen, A Rush and L Rush.

125 Declarations of Interests and Granting of Dispensations

None

135 St John's Way & Trinity Lane – Traffic Calming Measures (brought forward by the Chairman)

Details had been received from SGC of an intention to construct road humps in the form of speed tables on St Johns Way and Trinity Lane. A plan was circulated that depicted the proposal for 3 flat top road humps. It was noted that these did not form part of the Florence Gardens Planning Application and following discussion, the following points noted:-

 J. Ball 11/2/2020

- *Speed humps were not part of the original plan*
- *There is a speeding issue but not in that particular area*
- *A waste of money*
- *No revised planning application had been submitted to enable comment*
- *Increased noise pollution*
- *A more formalised crossing required*

After discussion, it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to object to the road humps and to request that SGC give consideration to a single crossing. The Clerk confirmed she would report back to SGC.

126 Reports from South Gloucestershire Councillors on matters relating to the Parish and not included on the Agenda
No SGC Councillors present.

127 Reports from representatives from other bodies on matters relating to the Parish and not included on the Agenda
Cllr Banister reported a successful networking event took place at The Stables Restaurant with Sodbury & Yate Business Assoc. and Chamber of Commerce in December.
Cllr Spooner reported with regard to Sodbury Woodland and advised that a draft Constitution was in the process of being prepared.

128 Approval of Minutes of Full Council Meeting on 10th December 2019
Resolved the Minutes of the 10th December 2019 were approved as a true and accurate copy and signed by the Chairman.

129 Matters Arising
None to report.

130 Finance – Payment of Accounts
Resolved that the schedule of payments and Bank Reconciliation were approved.

The Clerk reported with regard to electricity usage in The Clock Tower/Tourist Information Centre (TIC) and a reading that day equated to £430 for the month of January with the town council's proportion of electricity being for lighting and a water heater in the public toilets. The Clerk confirmed further investigation would be carried out.

131 Correspondence/Communication with the Council
Discussion by Council shown in italics

Requiring Response/Comments/Action

- Correspondence in relation to The Snuggery
*In terms of schedule 12 of the Local Government Act 1972 it is likely that discussion around this item will disclose exempt information in relation to Council contracts and personal information and it is, therefore, **Resolved** that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies Act 1960 the public and press be excluded and this matter be considered at the end of this meeting.*
- Post Office Ltd – Update 10/1 – continuing to work to restore service and had some local interest in providing this
- SGC – Response to concerns in relation to parking in Horse Street
The Clerk read out an e-mail from SGC and it was confirmed the matter was on the Task Register for consideration in the 2020/21 financial year
- SGC – Response to request for parking restrictions in Hounds Close and Woodmans Road as made by the Parking Working Group
Sodbury Town Council – Minutes of Full Council Meeting 14th January 2020

The Clerk read out an e-mail from SGC which confirmed that these areas would be included in any future area wide investigations.

- ALCA – Climate Emergency Action Day – Expressions of Interest for an event later in the year at a cost of £15 per person
*The details were read out by the Clerk and Cllrs Spooner and Lewis confirmed their interest in attending the workshop. Following discussion, it was **Resolved** to set up a 'Climate Working Group' and Cllrs Gilpin, Lewis and Spooner confirmed they would be representatives, the Clerk was asked to invite Cllr Allen. Cllr Gilpin confirmed she had recently attended an information session at Poole Court.*
- SGC – Tree Preservation Order – Upper Coombs End Farm
Map circulated – Response from Members "no comment".

For Information Only

- Local Resident – Thanking Council for Golden Wedding Anniversary flowers
- Old Sodbury Times - January

132 Defibrillators in the Town

A Chamber of Commerce representative informed Members that a training/information session had recently taken place when it was noted that the number of defibs in and around the town was low. The Chamber expressed an interest to work with the Council to explore funding possibilities, to be noted that the Chamber did not wish to take responsibility for the monitoring/checking of it. Following discussion, it was **Resolved** that the Chamber would liaise with Town Hall, Waitrose, Cotswold Homes and consider GoFund as a means to raise funds and the Clerk would investigate the cost of defibs and liaise further with Chamber.

133 Budget 2020/21

All Members were provided with a copy of the full budget in advance of the meeting. At a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7th January 2020, the budget for 2020/2021 was considered in detail and is recommended to Full Council for approval. A typographical error was brought to Clerk's attention on "Christmas Trees" and amendment duly made.

It was unanimously **Resolved** that the budget be approved.

134 Precept 2020/21

All Members were provided with a copy of the Precept calculation in advance of the meeting. At a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 7th January 2020, the calculation for 2020/2021 was considered and is recommended to Full Council for approval. The Clerk provided an explanation of the calculation and advised that whilst the actual precept is not increasing, due to the reduction in the Band D calculation householders will see a small increase.

It was unanimously **Resolved** that the Precept of £259,463.00 be approved and submitted to South Gloucestershire Council.

136 Culverhill Road Area – Waiting restriction review (plans e-mailed)

Due to inconsiderate parking in the area, a scheme was proposed by SGC to alleviate the problem. It was noted a petition had been submitted to SGC from Elm Close residents. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to approve the scheme and the Clerk to report back to SGC.

137 Churchyard Maintenance Funding

The item was discussed at a Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting on 7th January 2020 when it was resolved to refer the matter to Full Council for consideration. A briefing,

[Handwritten signature]
J. G. Allen 11/2/2020

circulated by National Association of Local Councils (NALC) and circulated to Members, related to providing financial assistance to the church and a summary of such read out by the Clerk. Members understood the uncertainty with regard to any grant being a legally valid payment and, following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to continue funding churches.

Churchyard maintenance at the St John's Churches. JS

Cllr Gilpin declared an interest and took no part in discussion and abstained when a vote took place.

138 Risk Assessment and Health & Safety Policy

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Risk Assessment and Health & Safety Policy.

The Clerk reported there had been a recent security issue with a member of the public and following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to enhance security by way of replacement doors to the office and removal of 'hatch' doors and quoted would be sought.

139 Clock Tower and Adjoining Structure

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk issue a letter to Chipping Sodbury Town Trust (CSTT) and its Solicitor stating that "Sodbury TC acknowledges that CSTT owns the Clock Tower & Adjoining Structure".

Cllrs. Hays, Gibson, Rumney & Smith abstained as Members of CSTT.

140 Chipping Sodbury Town Trust – Trustee Appointee

RESOLVED that Cllr Rumney be reappointed for a further period of 4 years with immediate effect.

141 Grass Cutting Charges

The Clerk reported with regard to Colts Green in Old Sodbury which belonged to the Commons Conservators but the Council paid £1967.00 for the cutting of it. Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the cutting of Colts Green be returned to the Conservators and the Clerk to advise accordingly.

Cllrs Ball, Rumney, Smith, Williams abstained from the vote.

142 Old Sodbury Play Area

The Clerk reported the bark surface was no longer a practical option due to water logging in the area and following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** to appoint GB Sport & Leisure to take up and remove current damaged concrete from site and lay a type 1 surface ready for wetpour surface. To fund the works, it was agreed that CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) of £2,340 be utilised.

143 Neighbourhood Planning

It was noted a presentation on Neighbourhood Planning was scheduled for 4th February 2020 at 19:00 hrs.

144 Items of Report

Cllr Rumney reported with regard to the 30mph 'smiley face' signs in Old Sodbury which were not sited in the correct area. The Clerk confirmed the matter had been reported to SGC. Cllr Ball reported he had been working with Cllr Banister and Ali Womack on an initiative 'Sodbury Together' that aimed to bring community groups together to share ideas and resources. It was work-in-progress and further updates would follow.

Cllr Spooner updated with regard to the up and coming town website and that a domain name had been established.


145 Date of next meeting: 11th February 2020: 19.30 hrs – STC Offices

JSB 11/2/2020

Signed  (Chairman)

Dated 11/2/2020

Closed at 21:03


SIBSK 11/2/2020